

## Stockholm in general

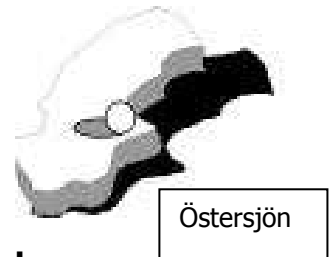
**Stockholm is Sweden's capital and also the country's biggest city. The population in and around Stockholm is about two million. The population of Sweden is about nine million.**

**Sweden's parliament and government is located here and it is also the home of the king of Sweden, *Carl XVI Gustav*.**



**Stockholm is located next to the Baltic Sea, on Sweden's east coast.**

**The city is built on several islands and is surrounded by water. Stockholm is sometimes called "the Venice of the north". The water around the city is clean and you are able to fish and swim in many places around the city. The archipelago, located just outside Stockholm, consists of around 30 000 islands.**



Stockholm is also a green city with many parks and nature reserves. In Sweden you are allowed to move around freely in forested areas. You are also allowed to pick berries and mushrooms, swim and paddle wherever you want to, apart from on someone's private property. This is called *allmansrätt*, the right of public access. In the year 2010 Stockholm was voted the environmental capital of Europe.

The city is known for its beautiful location where the lake Mälaren meets the Baltic Sea. Bridges connect all of the 14 islands, which Stockholm is built on, and everywhere you look you see water.

Stockholm is on the same latitude as Greenland's most southern point, but the temperature is, thanks to the Gulf Stream temperate and the city has four distinct seasons.

Sweden is a monarchy with the King as the head of state.

The Royal family lives in *Drottningholms castle* slightly outside the city centre. They used to live at the Royal castle in "the Old Town" in Stockholm. Today, this castle is mainly used as a working place and houses representational premises for the King and Queen.

## Stockholm in general - exercises

Where is Stockholm located? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think Stockholm is sometimes called "Venice of the North"?

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What is the name of the Swedish king?

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What does it mean that Stockholm has an archipelago?

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Which form of government does Sweden have?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the Gulf Stream? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the Gulf Stream affect the climate in Sweden?

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Sweden has something called "allmansrätt" the right of public access. What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Answer the following questions by using an atlas.*

*Stockholm is located on the same latitude as Greenland's southern tip.*

- *Which latitude is this?* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Can you find more places located on the same latitude? Give some examples!*

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- *Which latitude do you live on?*

- *Write down the names of some places that are on the same latitude as the place you live in!*

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## History

**Stockholm was founded during the 1200's. The city's oldest part is known as *Gamla Stan (the old town)*, which is located on a little island, originally known as Stadsholmen. Many old houses have been preserved here and the alleys between them are small and narrow. Most people say that *Birger Jarl* is Stockholm's founder.**



Stadsholmen, the island that is today called The Old City, was in the early days an important place for both commerce and defence. As early as in the 1100's there was a tower of defence in the Old City. In the 1200s founded Birger Jarl a castle built around the defense tower. The foundation was thereby laid for what would later become the Royal Palace Tre Kronor.

From the year 1436 Stockholm is known as the capital of Sweden. Around this time Stockholm was an important place for commerce within the *Hansa*, a trade union between the countries around the Baltic Sea.

**Something terrible happened in the Old City around the year 1520. The Danish king, *Kristian II*, had conquered Stockholm and was crowned the King of Sweden. To celebrate this, he invited everyone to a grand party at the castle. However, when the party was coming to its end, the guests were locked into the castle and a trial was started. Kristian accused many of the guests of having broken the church's rules and sentenced them to death. After this, on the town square, almost 100 people were beheaded. This event is known as the "*Stockholm Bloodbath*".**

After the "Stockholm bloodbath" an uprising was started against king Kristian. The uprising was led by a young nobleman called Gustav Eriksson. He succeeded in defeating king Kristian and was later voted king of Sweden on June the 6<sup>th</sup> 1523. As king he received the name *Gustav Vasa*. This day, June the 6<sup>th</sup>, is Sweden's national day.



From the days of Gustav Vasa Sweden is known as a hereditary monarchy. This means that the title is passed on within the family.

**During the 1600's Sweden was a great power and kept this status for more than 100 years. Up until then Stockholm had been a small town with narrow, winding streets and tiny wooden houses. However, as it became one of the greatest powers in the world, this was no longer good enough. The streets were made straight, wide and received a stone coated surface. The city walls were torn down and replaced by open spaces and piers. The houses were built with bricks and grand churches and palaces were resurrected.**

In the year 1611 *Gustav II Adolf* became king of Sweden. It was particularly through his successful military campaign during the Thirty Years' War where the Swedish empire was greatly broadened. In Europe *Gustav II Adolf* was known as the *Lion from the North*.



During the year 1697 the castle *Tre Kronor (Three Crowns)* burnt to the ground. It took more than 50 years to rebuild the castle. In the year 1754 the new castle was complete. This is the castle we see in Stockholm today.

**During the 1700's Sweden lost its position as a world power. In the year 1710 Stockholm was hit by the Plague and a third of the inhabitants died. Poverty and hunger was inevitable and during a large part of the 1800's Stockholm turned into one of Europe's most unhealthy cities to live in.**

Gustav III became king in the year 1711. He was very interested in art, literature and theatre. However, he had many enemies and was shot at a masquerade ball in 1792. This event inspired the famous opera composer *Giuseppe Verdi* to write the opera *The Masquerade Ball*.

**Stockholm was one of Europe's most unhealthy cities during the 1800's. var en av Europas mest ohälsosamma städer att bo i långt in på 1800-talet. Overcrowding, poverty, hunger and diseases were all major problems.**

Many housing areas lacked water – and sewer systems. You could find garbage and dung heaps all over the city. Diseases were easily spread in this time of environment. In the year 1834 cholera came to Stockholm, and within two months almost four thousand people had died.

Industrialism developed during the second half of the 1800's. That was when factories, food industries and printers came to Stockholm.

Along with this also the first gas, water and sewer systems.

Electricity and the telephone was also introduced to the inhabitants of Stockholm. At the end of the 1890's Stockholm had more telephones than any other city in the world.

Stockholm had become an industrial city with a vastly increasing population. The city had also become much cleaner and brighter.

In the beginning of the 1900's Stockholm had 300 000 inhabitants. The most important means of transport was the tram, which from the beginning was pulled by horses, but later by electricity. There were also cars in the city and by 1909 624 cars were registered in Stockholm.

**During the summer of 1912 Stockholm was the host for the Olympic games. The Swedes were very successful during these games and received no less than 65 medals.**

**Sweden did not participate in any of the two world wars that raged during the 1900's. This meant that Stockholm was saved from much destruction, unlike many other great European cities. The Stockholm we know today does not have a lot of similarities with the poor and dirty city that existed during the beginning of the 1800's. Stockholm is a beautiful city, surrounded by clean water with untouched green areas. Modern design**

**and old well preserved buildings are mixed with impressive cultural treasures in this city today**



**When was Stockholm founded?**

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**Who founded Stockholm?**

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**What is the name of Stockholm's oldest part?**

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What happened in Stockholm in 1520?

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During the 1600's Sweden became a major power. What did this mean for Stockholm?

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Why is Stockholm located at its current location?

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When is Sweden's national day?

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What is meant by the Hansa?

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*Why do you think Gustav II Adolf was called "the Lion of the North"?*

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*Describe, in short, the "Thirty year old war"!*

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## A tour of Stockholm

**1. We begin our tour of Stockholm by the *Royal Castle* in the Old Town. As early as the 1100's there was a castle of defence at this location and it was also where the castle *Tre Kronor* was situated.**

**The castle is built in a baroque style and is, with its 608 rooms, one of Europe's biggest royal castles.**

**This is where the King and Queen have their offices and it is also the place where they usually greet all their guests.**



The castle is open for visitors all year round and besides visiting the representation floors one can also visit one of the castle's three museums.

*Storkyrkan (the big church)* is located between the castle and the big town square. In the church there are remains left from the first church which stood there during the 1200's. Many of Sweden's rulers have been crowned here. In June 2010, the future Queen of Sweden, Victoria, got married here.

**2. The big town square in the Old City is probably Sweden's oldest square and has through all ages been an important place for gatherings and markets.**

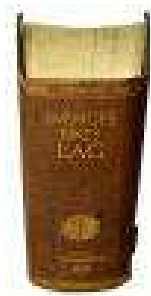
**The square is also historically a very important place. It was here that "*Stockholm's bloodbath*" took place in 1520, where King Kristian beheaded almost 100 people.**

In the middle of the square there is a large well. The exact place where the well is located was for many years known as Stockholm's "nollpunkt (point zero)". This means that all roads leading to and from Stockholm were measured from this place.





**3. The house of parliament is located very close to the castle. This is where Sweden's elected politicians work.**



The parliament has 349 members who are elected every four years. One of their important tasks is to settle the laws for Sweden.



**4. The Royal Opera is Sweden's national stage for opera and ballet.**

The current opera house in the year 1898 and is located in the same place as the opera house which *Gustav III* once built.

*Gustav III* was shot at a masquerade ball in the year 1792.

*Gustav III* also founded the *Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern* (Royal Theatre, also known as dramaten).



**5. There are many museums in Stockholm. The *National museum* is located opposite the Royal Castle and is Sweden's biggest art museum.**

In this museum you are able to view ancient paintings, sculptures, artworks and furniture made by old furniture designers



What we today call *Stockholm City* was at the end of the 1700's a brick city with nobleman's houses and palaces. Today it looks completely different. The old buildings are now modern shopping malls, offices and parking garages.

**6. *Kungsträdgården* (Royal garden) is located in the middle of the City and is a popular place where people from Stockholm and tourists meet.**

As the name of the place reveals, it was originally a garden for the Royal family. However, during Gustav III rule the public received access to the garden. The *Sweden house*, where tourists can get all the information and service they might need, is located right next to the garden.



**7. *Sergels torg* is the most central square in Stockholm. *Kulturhuset* (the Culture House) is located right next to it.**

*Sergels torg* consists of two levels, one lower level for pedestrians and one upper level for vehicles.

*Kulturhuset* (the Culture House) was opened in 1974 and is a building made entirely out of glass. In the Culture House you are able to listen to music, attend lectures and view different exhibitions and theatre performances. *T-centralen*, is the largest and most busy subway station in Stockholm and it is located right next to the culture house. All of Stockholm's subway lines meet at *T-centralen*.



**8. *Globen* (The Globe) is a big indoor stadium where you can enjoy big sport events och listen to concerts from world artists.**

The ice-hockey world championships in 1989 was the first major sport event that took place in this arena.

Artists like Pavarotti, Sinatra,





Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen and Roxette have performed here. The Globe looks like a massive golf ball and is the world's biggest spherical building. The circumference of the Globe is 690 m and the height of the building is 85 m. It weighs 560 tons.

**9. Every year, on the 10th of December, the *Nobel Prize* is awarded in Stockholm. The ceremony takes place in the *Concert hall*.**

This building is located next to *Hötorget*, which is an old market place. To this very day it is still a popular and lively market place. The Concert hall is also the home of the brilliant *Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*.



**10. The Nobel festivities take place in *Stadshuset (the City Hall)*.**

The actual dinner is enjoyed in "the Blue Hall". After the dinner the guests dance all night long in the "Golden hall".

Sweden's coat of arms "*Tre Kronor (Three Crowns)*" located at the very top of the City Halls 106-meter tall tower.



**11. From the City Hall we can take bus number 62 to Nybroplan where the Royal Theatre is located.**

**12. Huge and lovely apartment buildings were built along *Strandvägen* towards the end of the 1800's. All of the picturesque buildings and boats have turned Strandvägen into a very popular promenade.**



***Djurgården*** is a centrally located island, which accommodates some of Stockholm's most popular excursion destinations. The island invites you to enjoy culture, amusements and nature.

**13. If you are curious to know how the Swedish people have lived from Gustav Vasas days up until now, you should visit *Nordiska museet (the Nordic museum)*.**

The founder, *Arthur Hazelius*, started to collect valuable objects in the 1870's, which he thought future generations would enjoy seeing. Today you can view around 1,5 million objects in the museum.



**14. In the year 1996 a place called *Junibacken*, was opened on Djurgården. This is a "children's culture house" which houses some of Sweden's most famous fairy tales. You can meet characters like Pippi Longstocking, Emil of Lönneberga, Ronia the robber's daughter and many more of *Astrid Lindgrens* fairy tale characters here.**

The author Astrid Lindgren spent most of her writing days in Stockholm and many of her stories are set around the area.

**15. When visiting Djurgården you should not miss the Vasamuseum where you can inspect the royal ship "Vasa".**

**The Vasa ship is an old war ship from the 1600's.**



**16. *Skansen* is also located on Djurgården.**

*Skansen* is an outdoor museum, which shows how people lived in the olden days. You can see old farms from different parts of Sweden here, and also different animals and plants from all over the North. Usually big annual holidays like Christmas, New Year, 1<sup>st</sup> of May and the National day are celebrated here.



**17. Opposite Skansen you will find *Gröna Lund*, Stockholm's amusement park, which was established in 1883.**

During the 1700's there was a pub in this area with the same name.

*Carl Michael Bellman*, who was a great poet at this time, was a frequent visitor of the pub. Many of his songs and poems depict an excellent picture of what Stockholm was like at this time.

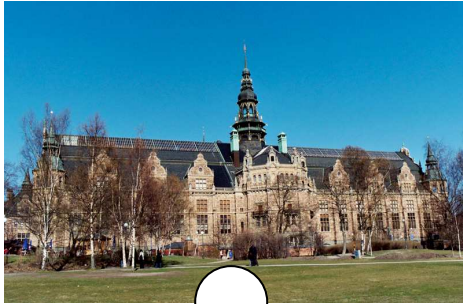


**We have come to the end of our tour of Stockholm. We will take the ferry back into town and enter the narrow alleys of the Old Town.**

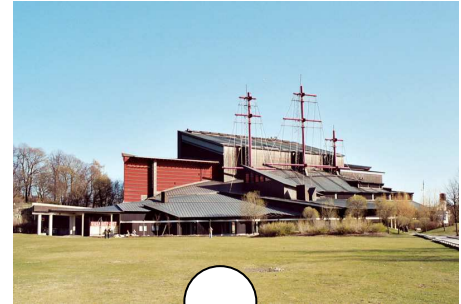




Do you recognize the buildings? Combine a letter with the right picture.



**A**  
**House of  
parliament**



**B**  
**Royal Castle**



**C**  
**Strandvägen**



**D**  
**City Hall**



**E**  
**Sergels torg**



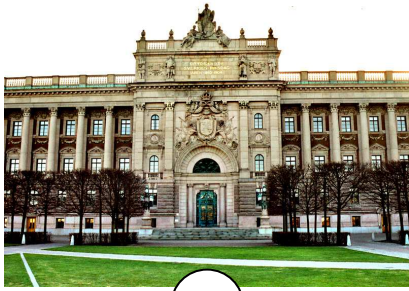
**F**  
**Vasa museum**



**G**  
**Concert hall**



**H**  
**The Globe**



**I**  
**The Nordic**  
**museum**



**J**  
**The Royal**  
**Opera**

## The Vasa ship

**The ship Vasa was a great warship, which was built according to the demands of King Gustav II Adolf. They started building the ship in 1626 and it was finished two years later.**

**The ship was very lavishly and richly decorated with various statues and other valuable objects. 64 heavy bronze canons were found on the upper deck. With the ship, king Gustav wanted to show his power and wealth. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of august 1628 it was time for the ships first journey. A huge crowd had gathered to see the ship set sail. After only twenty minutes a gush of wind caught the sails of the five-storey ship. The ship capsized and sunk just outside of Djurgårdens most southern point.**

When it was built, Vasa was one of the biggest warships in the world. She was 61 m long, 12 m wide and about 52 m high. When Vasa was lying at the wharf a stability test was made. The test showed that Vasa was not stable enough to survive harsh weather conditions.

The king however, who had approved all of the ships measures, was very anxious to get her involved in the sea warfare against Poland during the thirty year's war. The wreck of Vasa was found in 1956 and she was salvaged five years later. Every year, thousands of people visit the Vasa museum in order to see one of the worlds most well preserved old ships.

<http://www.vasamuseet.se/>

## Alfred Nobel

**Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833.**

**During many years Alfred lived in St. Petersburg where his father ran a machine shop and worked part-time as an inventor. Alfred followed his father's footsteps and decided that he wanted to be an inventor. He wanted to invent a good explosive. After many years of diligent work, Alfred was successful and in 1867 he got a patent for dynamite. When he died in 1896, he left behind a great fortune. In his testament Nobel had written that the interest of his money should annually be rewarded to those people who, in Alfred's own words, "had done the most good for humanity". Alfred wanted the prize to be rewarded in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace.**

Every year the prize is rewarded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, the date of Alfred Nobels death. During a very prestigious and formal ceremony at the Concert Hall in Stockholm the laureates are given the prize from the King. After this ceremony there is a grand dinner with dancing in the City Hall. The first Nobel prize was awarded in 1901. During this time Sweden and Norway were in union with one common king. This is why the Nobel peace prize is handed out in Norway's capital Oslo today. Nowadays a prize for economics is also awarded.

[http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_Nobel](http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Nobel)

[http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista\\_%C3%B6ver\\_nobelpristagare](http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_%C3%B6ver_nobelpristagare)



## The Vasa ship - exercises

Who decided that the warship Vasa should be built? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When did the ship make its maiden voyage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did the ship not make any other voyages? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Although the warship Vasa was found to be unstable, she was set to sail away. Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In which year was the Vasa ship salvaged?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Alfred Nobel - exercises

Who was Alfred Nobel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did Alfred Nobel get a patent for in 1867?

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Alfred Nobel, who should the nobelprize be handed out to?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where in Stockholm is the prize handed out?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which prize is handed out in Oslo, and why is it handed out there?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Following are the names of people who have received the Nobel prize. Choose some of the recipients and find out when they received the prize, which country they are from, which prize they received and why they received it?*

*Marie Curie, Rudyard Kipling, Martin Luther King, Alexander Fleming*

*Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Nelson Mandela, Karl Landsteiner,*

*Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, Moder Teresa, Elfriede Jelinek, Nils Bohr,*

*Jaroslav Seifert, Frederick G. Banting, Selma Lagerlöf, Aleksandr Solzjenitsyn*



**Plingplong – questions about Stockholm**

1. During which century was Stockholm founded?  
( 1200's )
- 2. Which king was shot at a masquerade ball in 1792?  
( Gustav III )**
3. Which year did Stockholm host the summer olympics?  
( 1912 )
4. Who is Sweden's head of state?  
( The King / Carl XVI Gustav )
5. Where in Stockholm is the Nobel prize handed out?  
( Concert hall )
6. During which century did Sweden become a world power?  
( 1600's )
- 7. What is the name of the outdoor museum located on Djurgården?  
( Skansen )**
8. On which day, every year, is the Nobel prize handed out?  
( 10th december )
9. About how many islands does Stockholm's archipelago consist of?  
( 30 000 islands )
10. What happened in Stockholm in 1520?  
( Stockholm's blood bath )
- 11. How many members are there in the Swedish parliament?  
( 349 members )**
12. What was the name of the castle which burnt down in 1697?  
( Tre kronor (three crowns) )
13. What is the name of the square where the Culture house is located?  
( Sergels torg )
- 14. What is the name of the sea surrounding Stockholm?  
( Baltic sea )**
15. Where does the Nobel party take place?  
( In the City Hall )

16. What is the name of the castle where the Royal family lives?  
( Drottningholms castle )
17. What is the name of the huge spherical indoor arena?  
( The Globe )
18. Who is said to be the founder of Stockholm?  
( Birger Jarl )
- 19. Where did the big battle take place that Sweden lost against Russia in 1709?**  
**( At Poltava )**
- 20. Which king was called "The Lion from the North"?**  
**( Gustav II Adolf )**
21. What is the name of the art museum located opposite the Royal Castle?  
( National museum )
22. Who invented dynamite?  
( Alfred Nobel )
23. What is the name of the church where many of Sweden's rulers have been crowned?  
( Storkyrkan / The big church)
24. Which of the Nobel prizes is handed out in Oslo?  
( The Nobel peace prize )
25. There is a very well preserved war ship from the 1600's being exhibited on Djurgården. What is the name of this ship?  
( Vasaskeppet )
26. What is the name of the amusement park in Stockholm?  
( Gröna Lund )
27. What is the name of the experience and culture house located on Djurgården?  
( Junibacken )
- 28. What is the name of the theatre located by Nybroviken?**  
**( Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern/ Dramaten ) The Royal Drama Theatre**
29. What is on the Swedish coat of arms?  
( Three crowns )
30. What is another name for Stockholm?  
( Venice of the North )

## Teacher's guide for Stockholm

The Study material for Stockholm contains information with associations to the history, geography and social science subjects.

According to Lgr 2011 the teaching of these subjects should include the following;

- **Students should develop their knowledge of historical context as well as their historical formation and consciousness.**
- **Students should be given the opportunity to acquire a historical reference and a deeper understanding of the present.**
- **Students are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge about and to be able to make comparisons between different places, regions and living conditions.**
- **Students are given the potential to develop an awareness of the context where geographical knowledge is important and useful.**
- **Students should develop their knowledge about how the individual and society affect each other.**

Goals which the student should have reached by the end of the work about "Stockholm".

The students should

- name and place Sweden's capital on a map.
- know what form of government Sweden has.
- know when Stockholm was founded.
- know what happened during the blood bath in Stockholm.
- know when Sweden became a great world power.
- recognize and tell in short something about known places in Stockholm.
- know who Alfred Nobel was.

**The text about Stockholm are the following:**

- **Stockholm in general ( 1 lesson )**
- **History ( 1 lesson )**
- **A tour of Stockholm ( 1 lesson )**  
**Links to maps of Stockholm:** <http://maps.google.se/>  
<http://www.hitta.se/LargeMap.aspx?var=stockholm>
- **The Vasa ship ( 1 lesson )**
- **Alfred Nobel ( 1 lesson )**

The three first texts should be read in the order they stand in.

The students should read the text on their chosen level and work with the exercises made for their specific chosen texts.

**The students reading the questions in bold will find the answers to their questions in the text.**

Other students will have the access to an atlas, encyclopedia and the internet.

The "Plingplong questions" should be completed by the entire group of students. The instructions for how to complete them is found in the chapter about "Vikings".

## Student's guide to Stockholm

**Read the first three texts in the order they are in.  
For every text there are questions/exercises to work with.**

- **Stockholm in general ( 1 lesson )**
- **History ( 1 lesson )**
- **A tour of Stockholm ( 1 lesson )**  
**At the same time as you are reading the texts, you should follow along on a map of Stockholm. Following is a link to a map:**  
<http://maps.google.se/> <http://www.hitta.se/LargeMap.aspx?var=stockholm>
- **The Vasa ship ( 1 lesson )**
- **Alfred Nobel ( 1 lesson )**

If you are reading all of the texts, you will need access to an encyclopedia, maps and the internet.

**When you have read the texts you will have to show what you have learned about Stockholm.**

1. **You are visiting Stockholm and you are writing a postcard to someone you know. You write about some of the places you have visited in Stockholm. Ask your teacher about a draught of a postcard. Draw a picture of Stockholm on the front of the postcard.**
2. At your school you have decided to create a school newspaper. Since you have just come home from a visit to Stockholm, you offer to write a report about the city. The report should include something about the history of Stockholm, advice on what to do as a tourist in Stockholm, what you did while you were in Stockholm and of course what you thought about the city.

**Sources:**

"Stockholm" Ulf Sindt

"Fakta om Stockholm under 800 år" Berndt Tallerud

Reseguide "Stockholm" Streifert

Nationalencyklopedin

Wikipedia

Bilder från Multimediabyrå